

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY SPECIFICATIONS

Please consult the latest federal, state, or local codes or regulations for any revisions of these specifications. Be advised that new construction specifications are more stringent and that all modifications to abide by the American with Disabilities Act are subject to “readily achievable”.

Parking Lots

1. One handicapped space for each 25 spaces or a minimum of 1 space.
2. Handicapped spaces shall be labeled as reserved for individuals with physical handicaps.
3. Handicapped accessible parking spaces shall be 96 inches wide with an access aisle of 60 inches.
4. It should not be necessary for individuals using wheelchairs or crutches to wheel or walk behind parked cars.

Walks and Ramps

1. Public walks and ramps shall be at least 48 inches wide, with a gradient not greater than 1 inch in 1 foot and have a non-skid surface.
2. Walks shall be of a continuing surface, not interrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level. Wherever they cross walks, driveways, or parking lots, walks blend to a common level.
3. Ramps shall have a slope no greater than one foot rise in twelve feet.
4. Ramps shall have smooth handrails on at least one side which are 34-48 inches in height measured from the surface of the ramp, and extend one foot beyond the top and bottom of the ramp.
5. Ramps and walkways shall have a level platform at the top which is at least 5 feet by 5 feet if the door swings out onto the platform or toward the walk, or 3 feet by 5 feet if the door doesn't swing onto the platform.

Entrances and Exits

1. At least one primary entrance to each building shall be accessible to and usable by individuals in wheelchairs or with other handicaps. Doorways shall be a minimum of 32 inches (clear opening).
2. The floor in the inside and outside of each doorway shall be level for a distance of five feet from the door in the direction the door swings.
3. There shall be no sharp inclines or abrupt changes in level (more than 1/2 inches) at the sill.

Stairs and Steps

1. Stairs shall have handrails 34-48 inches in height as measured from the tread at the face of the riser.
2. Stairs shall have at least one handrail that extends at the least twelve inches beyond the top and the bottom step.
3. Steps shall have risers 7 inches or less in height, with a width of no less than 11 inches.

Floor Coverings

1. Floors shall have a non-slip surface.
2. If carpeted, the carpeting nap shall be not more than 1/2 inch thick.

Rest Rooms

1. There shall be an appropriate number of toilet rooms (at least one) for each sex, accessible to and usable by physically disabled persons.
2. Toilet rooms shall have turning space 60 inches by 60 inches to allow traffic of individuals in wheelchairs.
3. Toilet rooms shall have at least one toilet stall that:
 - Is 3 feet wide
 - Is at least 4 feet, 8 inches by 60 inches
 - Has a door that is 32 inches wide and swings out
 - Has a grab bar on 2 of 3 sides, 33 inches in height and parallel to the floor, 1 1/2 inches in diameter, with 1 1/2 inches clearance between rail and wall
 - Has a width of at least 48 inches between the wall and the front of the stall
 - Has toilet seat 20 inches from the floor.
4. Drain pipes and hot water pipes are covered and insulated.

5. Mirrors, shelves, towel racks, soap dispensers and disposable units shall be mounted no higher than 40 inches from the floor.

Water Fountains

1. Water fountains shall be accessible to and usable by the physically disabled person.
2. Water fountains or coolers shall have up front spouts and controls.
3. If coolers are wall mounted, there shall be no more than 36" from floor to opening of spout.
4. If coolers are floor mounted, there shall be no more than 36" from floor to opening of spout.

Public and Library Telephones

1. There shall be at least one public telephone (hearing aid compatible) accessible to and usable by physically disabled persons.
2. The height of the dial or number pad, and the coin slot, shall be 48 inches or less.
3. There shall be an appropriate number of telephones (at least one) for persons with hearing disability (that is, amplifier, TTD, or TTY). Telephones shall be identified as equipped for handicapped or hearing impaired.

Controls

Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, draperies, fire alarms, and all similar controls of frequent or essential use should be within the reach of individuals in wheelchairs.

Identification

1. Raised or recessed letters or braille characters shall be used to identify rooms and offices.
2. Identification shall be placed on the wall, on the latch side of the door, at a height of 60 inches.
3. Signage shall use the international symbol of accessibility.

Warning Signs and Hazards

1. Audible warning signals shall be accompanied by simultaneous visual signals.
2. Ramps shall have adequate lighting.
3. Exit signs shall be easily identifiable to all disabled persons.

Library Specific Requirements

1. Stack areas shall provide a minimum aisle width of 36 inches between stacks, with a preferred minimum of 42 inches.
2. At least 5% , or a minimum of one carrel of each element of fixed seating, tables, or study carrels, shall comply with ADA specifications: Tops 28-34 inches high, knee space of 27 inches high, 30 inches wide. Clearances of at least 36 inches.
3. Checkout areas shall have at least one lane or point that is 36 inches wide and 36 inches high for wheelchair access.
4. Card catalogs (or Public Access Catalogs) and magazine displays shall have a minimum of 36 inches aisle space. Maximum reach height shall be 48 inches and low reach shall not be less than 9 inches off the floor.

In addition to these, libraries shall conform to all specifications in 4.1 to 3.35 of "ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities," Appendix A of the Code of Federal Regulations, 28, Part 36 (July 26, 1991).